

LITTLE KNOWN Midland club Oldbury United are next on the agenda in Wycombe Wanderers' bid for the 1971 Amateur Cup. They visit Loakes Park in the third round on Saturday, February 13, writes Mike Whitesman.

The draw, made at Lancaster Gate on Monday afternoon, gave an extra boost to the confidence growing among Wycombe's fans this season.

The Blues' defeat of Cup holders Enfield last Saturday, has confirmed them as clear favourites in the eyes of many pundits.

But results tell a warning tale. For Oldbury, at a distance seem

# Wycombe versus

to be underdogs with a vicious bite.

Oldbury, who? Unknown quantities they may be, yet their record so far reads well.

This season is their first time past the preliminary stages of the competition, and thus Wanderers will be eager to gather as much information about their latest opponents as possible.

Oldbury hold down a challenging place near the top of the West Midland Combination.

They got off to a bad start but have fast risen away from the basement zone of a competition including such well-known Cup fighting names as Alvechurch and Highgate.

In 1970 they won the Central Counties Floodlight League, of which they are the only amateur members and this season in their bid to retain that title they have already cracked two Southern League sides, Banbury United and Rugby Town 3-1.

Manager Alan Hawkes had to virtually rebuild the side when he took over at the beginning of last season. His appointment followed closely on a mass exodus of players to League rivals Moor Green.

Under Hawkes, Oldbury have matured into one of the fittest squads in the Midlands, and since Christmas have produced their most dazzling form to date.

Western club Newquay,

## Oldbury, who?

found out to their cost on Saturday when thrashed 7-1 at home in round two. Although Oldbury are very much a unit without star names, it was to four goal Micky Sadin that much of the glory went on the day.

So, while Wanderers should get through they can prepare for a hard time.

Elsewhere, the third round draw is full of promise for an afternoon of true Cup-tie thrills

as survivors battle it out to reach the last eight.

Wycombe's Buckinghamshire neighbours Slough Town, travel to Hendon to meet the Claremont Road club — and both sides are particularly keen to reach Wembley this season.

Boreham Wood, are in with a chance of continuing their sequence of giant killing with a home tie against the winners of next Saturday's replay between Dulwich and Leatherhead.

Meanwhile, Aveley have a long way to travel, either to Marine or Ormskirk, for what is probably the end of their trail.

If Hellenic League Witney do ultimately topple Hayes, they'll be away again, this time to Loughborough College, and Whitley Bay must travel South to either Tooting and Mitcham or Walthamstow Avenue.

1969 winners North Shields, or Tow Law Town entertain the

famous Lancashire club Skelmersdale in what looks like the match of the round.

But another possible classic could come at Leytonstone, where the East Londoners meet either Bishops Stortford or last season's beaten finalists Dagenham.